(b) if so, the public sector companies like Engineers India Ltd. similarly recognized organisations, who have developed state-of-the-art capabilities in oil and gas industry, would be encouraged to compete for their relevant fields of activities or even for turn-key projects?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) Engineers India Limited is aware of the projects which are coming up in Middle East region and the announcement made by Technip that projects upto US$21 billion will be awarded in near future in UAE region. These are all EPC contracts wherein the size of each package is US$ 1 billion plus.

(b) Although, EIL has not executed any EPC project overseas till date, however, we are examining the above opportunities and finding out ways and means to pre-qualify for the same.

Recycled blocks in NELP

2125. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recycled blocks were included in the eighth round of auction under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP); and

(b) what was the response for such blocks?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Out of 38 recycled blocks offered in the eighth bid round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VIII), bids were received for 21 blocks.

Auction under NELP

2126. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how many blocks have been auctioned in the eight rounds of auctions under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP);

(b) of them how many are deep sea blocks and how many are on-shore blocks;

(c) whether it is a fact that the most of the blocks have been won by Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) or their joint venture (JVs); and

(d) if so, whether it defeats the purpose of NELP?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) Under the eighth bid round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VIII), 70 blocks (24 deepwater blocks, 28 shallow water blocks, 18 onland blocks) were offered. Bids were opened on 12.10.2009. 76 bids have been received for 36 blocks. The evaluation of bids is underway.